

12 Sept. 1985

WALTER HAROLD: Apparently somebody in the operating room had a dirty hand, I guess, or was not careful.

BOB FAW: What happened to Walter Harold, who walked away from a 1978 operation in this North Carolina V.A. hospital with an 18-inch wound that still bleeds, what happened in the coronary unit of this Miami V.A. hospital, which had to be temporarily shut down when its death rate soared, and what happened here at this Georgia V.A. facility is raising questions about the quality of medical care for veterans.

Donny Gene Williams, for example. An alcoholic, Williams died several hours after a V.A. physician who examined him here one night told him to come back the next morning.

PAT GREENWAY: Well, I said to them, "I can't believe you're not going to take this man, as sick as he is. Couldn't you put him on another ward?"

FAW: The V.A.'s internal investigation found that the doctor who works part-time for the V.A. and who turned Williams away after just a 15-minute exam had done nothing wrong.

WILLIAM EDGAR: And hindsight is always better than foresight. I think we all wish that we had admitted Mr. Williams. I don't think there's any doubt about that.

FAW: The V.A.'s conclusion does not satisfy Donnie Williams' friends.

BOSTON HARRELL: He should be alive. And I believe that if he had received the proper attention, he would be alive.

FAW: The V.A. concedes that with its pay scale it is hard to get and to keep good doctors. More than half of the roughly 100,000 that it uses work part-time. Almost 40

percent are foreign-trained. Most leave the system within eight years.

Now, after checking on 46,000 of its doctors, the V.A. has found that more than 200 of them have licenses which have either been suspended, revoked, or restricted. The V.A. says the serious cases will be weeded out, but that, pending review, all the doctors with problem licenses will keep on working.

DR. ARTHUR LEWIS: We don't want to damage anybody if they really have no problem. We don't want to destroy reputations by suspending people unless there is adequate proof.

FAW: Its critics say the V.A. has a ho-hum attitude, which is part of the problem. The National Medical Federation, which keeps tabs on problem doctors, complains that the V.A. has also been slow to check on its physicians, even slower to report what it's found.

DR. BRYANT GALUSHA: If there's one deviant physician who's going unrecognized, that's serious.

FAW: The V.A. was set up to provide first-rate medical care for those who fought for their country. What Donnie Gene Williams and the V.A.'s own survey seem to suggest is that, for many, the system isn't even adequate.

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT    ABC-TV  
7:00 P.M.                    SEPTEMBER 12

KGB Official Defects

PETER JENNINGS: It sounds like a spy thriller, and it isn't fiction. The top Soviet agent in Britain has defected to the West. He is now being

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kept under wraps by British authorities and he is talking, and there has been an immediate result. Twenty-five alleged Soviet agents -- diplomats, journalists, businessmen -- have been ordered to get out of Britain within three weeks.

And we begin with Barrie Dunsmore in London.

BARRIE DUNSMORE: As a counselor here at the Soviet Embassy in London, 46-year-old Oleg Gordievski has headed the KGB's espionage operations in Britain. According to the British Foreign Office, Gordievski joined the KGB in 1962. For ten years he then ran the illegals, undercover agents. He then was in charge of intelligence operations in Scandinavia. And in 1982 he came to Britain.

Among the 25 Soviets being expelled as agents on the defector's information are six diplomats from the embassy; the others include embassy workers, journalists, and people attached to the Soviet trade mission.

British Prime Minister Thatcher, who has been touring Scotland this past week, is said to have been directly involved in the decision to expel the Soviets, in spite of her government's declared policy of wanting to improve British-Soviet relations.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE: We have taken the decision we have taken in the interest of national security as a result of the information that has reached us. A very important decision taken after a great deal of thought, and very necessary.

ALEXEI NIKIFOROV: All accusations or insinuations as to the alleged illegal activities of the Soviet representatives have nothing to do with reality.

DUNSMORE: The Soviet denial notwithstanding, the British now claim they have a Soviet master spy, and thus a victory.

However, Duncan Campbell, an expert on British Intelligence, claims they've actually had to pull a key double-agent who was about to be compromised.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL: Obviously, in political terms, it's one over the Soviet Union. But in terms of intelligence operations, it's not a success; it's a disaster. It marks not the beginning of a successful intelligence operation, but its unexpected and untimely end.

DUNSMORE: That point was reinforced tonight by a Danish Cabinet minister who claims that Gordievski has worked with the West since the late '70s. If so, that means that while the Soviets have lost a spy, the West has lost a critically placed counterspy.

JENNINGS: Just a short while ago we talked to the former Deputy Director of the CIA, Ray Cline.

Mr. Cline, you say this is a great event for the West. What does it mean, in specific terms, to have such a high-level defection?

RAY CLINE: Well, it means that this man will be able to give names and numbers of agents, operations, not only in his own territory, but in nearby areas where he has read reports about the operations. And he will be able to describe the general pattern of Soviet programs in the KGB field.

JENNINGS: Is he going to be able to put his finger on agents who do not report through the Soviet Embassy, for example?

CLINE: In a few cases, I would think, being the resident chief, as the British say, he will be able to have looked at messages that did not relate

directly to the operations he controlled himself. And if he remembers them, he can give the leads that will help everybody develop new information on those cases.

JENNINGS: So it's a big catch. And does it give President Reagan an edge when he goes to meet Mr. Gorbachev?

CLINE: It certainly does give President Reagan an edge. He won't have to talk about it. The Russians have been caught with their hands in this cookie jar before, and they'll just play it deadpan.

But it does demonstrate what the President has often said and well knows: that the Soviet Union plays international dirty pool, with the KGB, even while it's developing a line of friendly propaganda in the diplomacy field.

JENNINGS: Thank you for joining us.

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The following transcripts are available to read or reproduce on the premises, SAF-AAR 4C 881.

Anti-Satellite Weapons  
Mutual News, WGMS Radio  
September 10, 5:00 P.M. TR-008

Defense Budget  
Mutual News, WGMS Radio  
September 10, 6:00 P.M. TR-009

Anti-Satellite Weapon  
Eyewitness News, WDVM-TV  
September 10, 5:30 P.M. TR-010

Spying  
The Rowan Report, WHUR Radio  
September 10, 5:55 P.M. TR-011

GTE Corporation  
Ten O'Clock News, WTTG-TV  
September 10, 10:00 P.M. TR-012